



December 2023 — January 2024

# SEMPER FI

Newsletter of The Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League



## Department of Connecticut Commandant's Corner



Wow, what a month!

Greetings fellow CT MCLeaguers. I am hopeful that this newsletter finds you and yours well. I trust that by the time this Newsletter edition is published, WE will all have fully recuperated from celebrating our beloved Corps' 248 th birthday. As your Commandant, I endeavor to attend as many detachment events as possible, and this November did not disappoint. I wish to thank the members of the Brass City Memorial Detachment, Greater Bridgeport Detachment, Hardware City Detachment, Peter P Monaco Detachment, Paul C Houghton Detachment and my very own Thames River Detachment for invitations to their respective Marine Corps Birthday celebrations. I was able to attend all but one.

November also brought us Veterans Day, and I am hopeful that many of you were able to participate in some way or another. This is especially true of our Vietnam Veterans who never received the homecoming they deserved upon returning from overseas. It seems only those serving in a "popular" war (Afgan/Iraq) are celebrated by the masses and



those who served during the "unpopular" war (Vietnam) were shunned upon their return. Those were despicable times. It is uplifting when I hear stories of our very own Vietnam Veteran CT MCLeaguers who are invited to classrooms to share their stories who are chosen as parade marshals, and who are properly cherished as time continues to tick by.

On a personal note, November brings to me the first anniversary of my daughter's passing, which

any parent who has lost a child knows, becomes one of the most difficult days of the year. I am however, blessed with a GREAT support system; one of my many blessings, for which I am eternally grateful.

In closing, please remember that the Christmas/Chanukah holiday season will soon be upon us. Some of you are deeply involved with Toys for Tots programs; OUTSATNDING! Please remember to keep in touch with your detachment brethren; Buddy Checks. From your entire Dept of CT Leadership team, we all wish you and yours a very happy and safe New Years.

Semper Fi  
Patrick T. McMahon  
Commandant  
Department of Connecticut  
Marine Corps League

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Department of Connecticut Officers 2021-2022

### Detachment Meetings

Brass City Detachment 31	—	First Wednesday 19:00
Hat City Detachment 36	—	3rd Tuesday 20:00
Mahakemo Detachment 37	—	First Wednesday 20:00
Peter P. Monaco Jr. 40	—	First Monday 19:00
Northwest Detachment 42	—	First Tuesday 19:00
Ridgefield Detachment 44	—	Third Wednesday 19:00
Silver City Detachment 45	—	Third Tuesday 19:00
Southington Memorial 46	—	Third Tuesday 19:00
Valley Detachment 48	—	Second Sunday 19:00
Bridgeport Detachment 654	—	First Tuesday 19:00
Paul C. Houghton 681	—	Third Thursday 19:00
Hardware City Detachment 781	—	First Wednesday 19:00
Lock City Detachment 910	—	Third Wednesday 19:30
Housatonic Detachment 1129	—	Second Monday 19:30
Thames River Detachment 1334	—	Second Tuesday 19:00

### Growls

**Glawackus Pound Growls are held prior to the Pack Growls, Pound 11 AM Pack at 1PM**

**The next Growl will be November 5 2023 at Rocky Hill**

**Hooch Pooch Pound Growls are held separately at Valley Detachment. Schedules to follow**



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# CONNECTICUT



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US ALL

In Connecticut we started off with the Housatonic Detachment breakfast, which was attended by Marines from Housatonic, Greater Bridgeport, and Brass City Memorial Detachments. Followed By Brass City's Birthday Ball, Then Greater Bridgeport's Cake cutting ceremony, Thames River Ball, Hardware City's Ball, Peter P Monaco's Breakfast, Paul C Houghton's Dinner and I attended the Semper Fi, Society's Luncheon. Ladies and gentlemen that's a lot of cake, but I can tell you without a doubt the Brotherhood is alive and well in Connecticut. We found a new youngest Marine Krystal Reid who I am trying to convince to join the league, so if you could please be on your best behavior.

Now that we have covered all of that, I really thought I could be the youngest Marine this year since we got rid of Lauber's son, but you guys found a ringer again. I don't want to be the oldest anything and besides that I may not make it. But at least they let me push the cake, small



victories. Before we start with the Birthday pictures, Marine Burrington sent me this one and he sent and I will use it.

Marine Burrington was, Show and Tell, at his granddaughter Erin's school in Glastonbury. Looking good Marine and the granddaughter looks very happy to show you off, for Veterans Day.



### U.S. MARINE CORPS 248th BIRTHDAY BALL

*Presented by*

**The Brass City Memorial Detachment - Marine Corps League**

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Elks Lodge #265**

**283 West Main Street**

**Waterbury, CT**

**In the Banquet Hall (Ground Floor)**

**\$50.00 per person**

**\*\*\*\*\*Raffle Prizes, DJ music and dancing\*\*\*\*\***

**Guest Speaker: Colonel Adele E. Hodges USMC(Retired)**

**6 pm to 7 pm: Open Bar with Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Cash Bar**

**Buffet Style Dinner, Coffee, Tea and Birthday Cake**

**(Dress is formal attire)**

**For Info call:**

**PDC Jim Lauber 203-217-0438**

**Roland "Skip" Hamel 203-527-8137**



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## BRASS CITY BIRTHDAY BALL



Brass City Ball was held on November 4th in Waterbury, where a great time was had by all. Music, food, the traditional toast to Sam Beamon, raffles, 50/50 and a fantastic guest speaker, Col. Adele Hodges USMC retired.



Those attending were from Housatonic Detachment, Hardware City Detachment, Silver City Detachment, Greater Bridgeport Detachment, and Thames River Detachment. The youngest Marine was from no Detachment as of yet, Marine Krystal, Reid





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## BRASS CITY BIRTHDAY BALL





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## GREATER BRIDGEPORT CAKE CEREMONY



Above Commandant Adele Hodges and guests to the right Marine Rosena Taylor



To the left Guest Speaker Brigadier General Ron Welch Retired , Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Below Department Commandant Pat McMahon assuming the role of Cake Cutting





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## GREATER BRIDGEPORT CAKE CEREMONY



As is Tradition the first slices of cake go to the Guest speaker Brigadier General Ron Welch, The oldest Marine Don Pavia , and the youngest Marine Krystal Reid. Marine Reid is a free agent, who is not a member of any detachment as of yet. She lives in the Seymour area so if any of you local detachments are looking for a new member you may want to make your case to her as to why your detachment is the best to join. I did make a pitch on all of your behalf's , for Valley, Brass City, Greater BPT. And Housatonic. Below all of the Marines in attendance at the cake cutting ceremony. Happy Birthday All and Semper Parvulus.





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## PETER P. MONACO BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST



Opening Ceremonies for the Breakfast, the Detachment preparing for Colors.



Below preparation to cut the cake and again serve it to the youngest and oldest Marine Present. At this even the ceremony was conducted in the correct manner where the oldest Marine feeds the youngest Marine , symbolizing the passing of Knowledge to the future generations of Marines Semper Fi.





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## VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS



Col. Tom Kanasky USMC Retired MC BPT. Veterans Day Ceremonies

Below the Milford Parade Col Adele Hodges USMC Retired looking exceptional in her Dress Blues with her perspective recruit The Gunny. He looks like he has the proper attitude we will save him a spot..Semper Fi Col. You do us proud Marine.





# CONNECTICUT



## CT VETERANS DAY RACE HONORS AND SALUTES OUR MILITARY VETERANS

Hundreds gathered at Patriots Park in Coventry on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual CT Veterans Day Race organized by MCL Det 40 member, Peter DePaola. The Park was full of



excitement, energy and patriotism with nearly 300 participants registered for either the 4-mile race, 3-mile walk, or 3-mile rucksack on a perfect autumn day. One of the motivating participants was our MCL Department of CT Commandant, Pat McMahon.

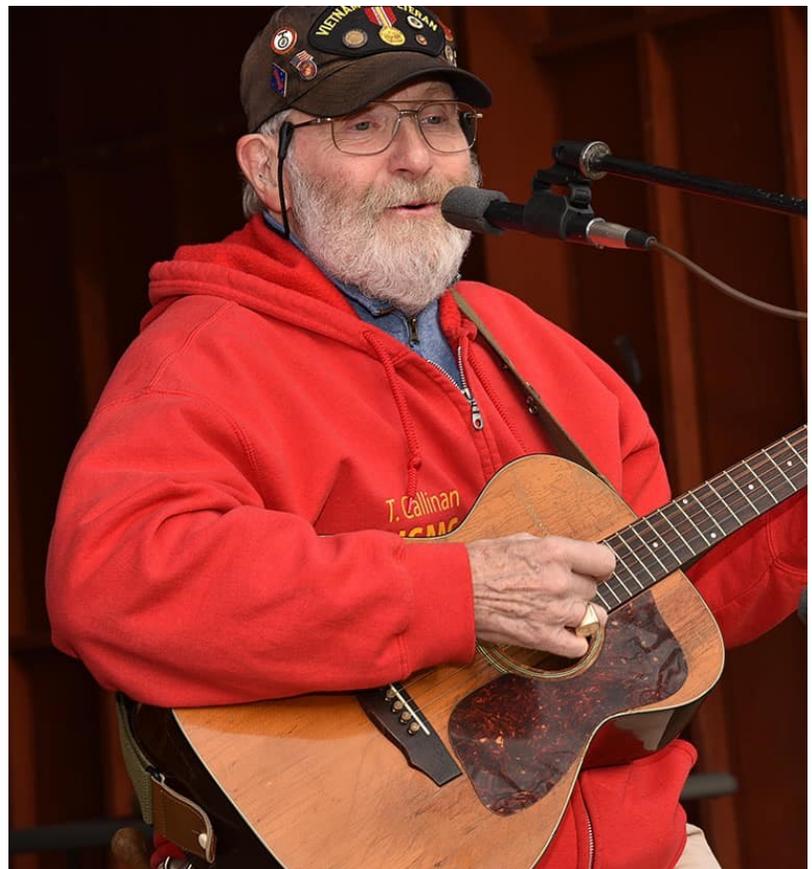
“This is more than just a road race. The event honors the service and sacrifice of Connecticut’s many veterans. It’s an event to welcome them home and honor their service and sacrifice, as well as to share with the CT community some of the many services available to them through various Veteran Service Organizations.” said Peter DePaola, Race Director.

The opening ceremony was

patriotic and motivating with the UConn Air Force ROTC providing the color guard followed by Rubyfruit A Cappella Choir, also from UConn performing the National Anthem. Colchester resident, James DePaola, Marine GWOT veteran, offered the invocation. Special remarks were provided by CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs Deputy Commissioner Joe Danao. A new addition to the ceremony this year was Tom Callinan, a MCL member and Vietnam era veteran, who sang a song he wrote, “Some Gave All, All Gave Some.”

Students from the UConn Crew Team, the Natchaug River Young Marines, and the Coventry High School National Honor Society all volunteered to make the day a huge success. Additionally, active-duty Marines and Soldiers proudly set up their static displays in the park and enjoyed sharing their stories and knowledge with over 500 guests in Patriots Park. The park was filled with esprit de corps throughout the morning.

Since the race began in 2016, near-





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## CT VETERANS DAY RACE HONORS AND SALUTES OUR MILITARY VETERANS

ly \$85,000 has been donated directly to 18 different CT Veteran Service Organizations. Veterans Day is a great time for all Americans to salute our military veterans and say, "thank you," but also to discover a way to support the thousands of veterans in need. In addition to financial donations, there were overflowing bins full of non-perishable food items and daily essential items for the homeless and at-risk veteran; all donated by race participants and local communities. While the race event was happening outside, the Coventry National Honor Society students were



working inside the lodge sorting these items to be put into backpacks for the homeless veteran community in support of the Backpacks for Life program. The CT Veterans Day Race provides the opportunity to show our American pride to the many service men and women. We all say, "Thank you for your service, and welcome home."

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# FROM THE EDITOR

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



We have had a very eventful fall season. The National Convention has come and gone as well as the 100th Birthday of the Marine Corps League. We saw our Marine Corps Commandant finally confirmed only to suffer a cardiac event but luckily he is on the mend and should be

back to full duty soon.

We have had numerous celebrations of our Birthday and many of us are working on Toys4Tots and other important campaigns. In all of these celebrations and campaigns we are involved in we are still operating at a reduced capacity and we need to turn this around. Call your friends ask them if they are going to the meeting? When everything shut down during COVID it became very easy to stay at home and not be as active as we were before but its time to get that freedom and activity back. I can only speak for myself but I enjoyed being out and doing things, especially recruiting or roses. You would also have people come up to the table to donate and they always wanted to tell you what they did. Lets face it we are all proud of what we did when we were active duty and in my case I love listening to them and commenting. You know when a Navy Guy comes up you can always thank them for the rides, or offer condolences if they were Army and who doesn't get a good laugh when they say Air Force. But that is only part of it. You coming to events and meeting puts a spark back into your life, you get the comradery back that you have been missing. If you need help getting to a meeting pick up the phone and call one of us would be happy to give you a ride to and from. Lets get back to how things used to be . Do you have another idea or need reach out and let us know.

Walt Benson



I can't send an individual card to everyone so let me do this instead. As you look at the fresh fallen snow on our monument, you can feel the silence and calm that you find after the snow has fallen and stopped. There is an eerie silence as the wind picks up causing the snow to drift. There is a feeling of peace that seem to come easily at this time of the year as you prepare for the Holidays and the celebrations you will have with your families. Please take but a minute to remember our brothers and sisters who cannot be home for this as they are serving in harms way. So when you gather around the table to toast the holiday let the first toast be to them, who will miss this Christmas at home. Having done that I would like to say from my family to all of your families, I wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons, as well as the healthiest New Year.

Semper Fidelis  
walt



# THE YOUNG MARINES



## YOUNG MARINES PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS DAY RACE

It was a brisk November morning and we were out setting up tables and supplies for the race. We were prepping for the Ct Veterans 5k. We arrived early to help set up where we got the pleasure to meet the person who coordinated the entire event and he got us our assignments almost immediately.



My job was to organize and label all the foods, that way everyone could see what was what. Other jobs we were given

consisted of things like cleaning the tables and setting up the toasters and ovens. As we set up chairs and tables for food, we got the opportunity to meet several people from the committee that helped plan this event. The concession stand that we set up was a row of tables where we offered coffee, water, Hot chocolate, donuts, bagels and much more to

the volunteers and runners. Along with handing out food and beverages to the athletes we also helped set up other booths and move picnic tables.

Prior to the kickoff of the race we stood by and manned the tables where we made egg and cheese sandwiches on bagels for the military members and the committee members and handed out food to the racers. Racers and volunteers alike would come to the booth to get anything from the large amount of donated goods.

When the race started it was quite the sight. Close to 300 runners were registered, creating quite a parade of people. It was at this time that business slowed considerably as all the runners were now on the track. During this time several members for the Marines came over for chow. We made them their food and got the chance to talk to them for quite a while about several things, ranging from the Young



Marine program to their life as a Marine. As the race wrapped up we started helping takedown the tables and signs along with moving picnic tables back. All in all it was a great experience to come out and watch everyone run and to meet all the fantastic people who helped plan and

execute the event.

**YM GySgt Mason Steele**



2023

# DECEMBER

2023



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
							
31							



**2024** **JANUARY** **2024**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

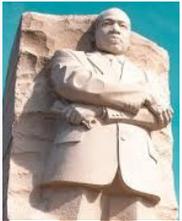
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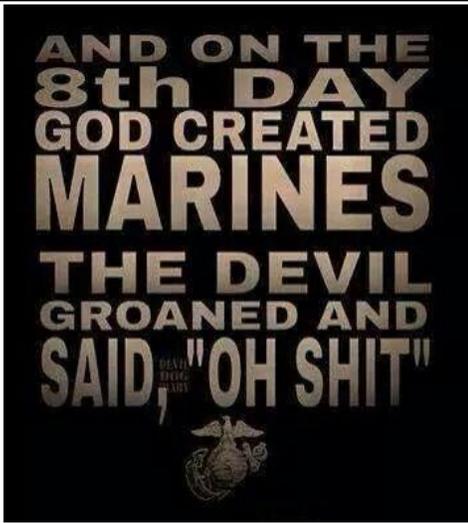
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 	16	17	18	19	20
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Regardless of the situation, the Marine Corps has an answer for almost everything.

**A Marines Prayer**

Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones, and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.

Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my Country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.

Amen



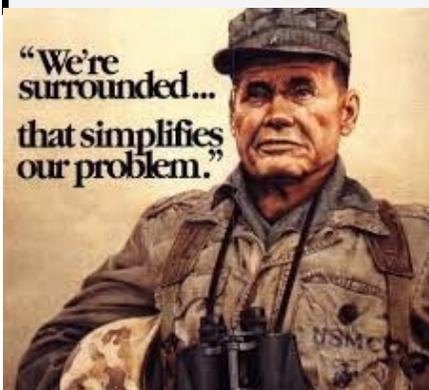
# Marine Corps League National Convention 2024

**Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa  
71333 Dinah Shore Drive,  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**

August 12th through August 16th  
Banquet is Friday August 16th

**NOW RECRUITING**   
Become active in the Marine Corps League and you can make a difference.

**Attention To Orders**  
THE NEXT DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT MEETING  
CT Veterans Home and Hospital  
287 West St Rocky Hill CT 06067 Building 50  
December 3, 2023 Lunch at 12:00 Meeting at 13:00



What Started Here.....

Continues Here.....

